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SUBJECT Reorganization of Peaco Committees in Ecuador

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. It has been reported from Ecuador that the Partido Commista del Ecuador (PCE) has recently received instructions to re-establish the Peace Connittees which were disbanded

According to Pedro Saad, leader of the PCE, similar instructions have been sent to the Perties of other Latin American countries. Saad claims that Roberto Morena, Brazilian Communist and CTAL official, is closely connected with the program of strengthening the peace movement throughout Latin America. The program includes plans for coordinated public manifestations during the latter half of 1950 in all Latin American countries in which the Peace Committees have gained sufficient support to put on an impressive demonstration agaisst U. S. imperialist and preparations for war.

- 2. The PCE had already begun an active campaign to emlist support for the Peace Cormittees. It is estimated that the total membership of the various committees in fuito has reached one thousand; most of the new members are women. Mela Martinez, prominent woman Communist, is currently devoting nearly all her time to the organization of these committees, concentrating on housewives of the lower classes. She and her collaborators began by making social calls on various women, persuading them to meet in their homes occasionally to discuss ways and means for promoting peace. These women have become the leaders of neighborhood committees, which in turn are being organized into meace unions having various names.
- 3. The Tuito branch of the PCE has also succeeded in establishing a committee in the federation of retired army officers and is planning to do the same in the university and various other cultural and social institutions.
- 4. The Guayacu'l branch of the PCE is promoting a program somewhat similar to that spensored by Martinez. And Moreno and Isabel Merreria de Saad, outstanding women Communists of that city, are the directors of the feminine effort in Guayacuil. They have approached women of the middle

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class principally and appear to be achieving even greater success than their counterparts in fuito. They have already established committees in most of the neighborhoods of the city and are beginning to work in the outlying rural regions.

5. Although the principal purpose of the committees is to denounce the warlike plans of the United States and to counteract the effectiveness of U.S. propaganda in Latin America, the committees have automatically become involved in local labor problems and disputes. In the event of a leftist revolutionary uprising, many of the women have stated that they would go into the front line of battle with their children, a strategy which could be highly effective, since the police and army would be reluctant to shoot women with the same dispassion as male insurgents.

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Comment. It was reliably reported from Ecuador he peace committees in Ecuador had been completely disbanded and that no contact was maintained with World

Peace Headquarters in Paris or with the CTAL.